

- In 1996 pneumonia and influenza ranked third as a cause of death among whites and fifth among blacks at ages 65 years and older.
- Diabetes ranked as the sixth leading cause of death among Tennesseans ages 45 years and older and seventh overall. It ranked fourth among blacks from ages 45 through 64, and fifth overall and at ages 65 and older. Diabetes ranked as the third leading cause of death among black females ages 45-64 and fourth overall. It ranked fourth for white females ages 55-64 and sixth at ages 65 years and older.

Infant/Neonatal/Postneonatal Mortality

- In 1996, the infant mortality rates for the total Tennessee population, whites and blacks, respectively, were 8.5, 6.7 and 15.4 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the United States population was 7.3. National target rates for infant mortality, established under the Year 2000 Objectives, are 7 per 1,000 live births for the total population and 11 for the black population.³
- The neonatal and postneonatal mortality rates in 1996 for Tennessee were 5.2 and 3.3 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Corresponding rates for whites were 4.2 and 2.5, and for blacks were 9.3 and 6.1. Year 2000 target rates for the total US population are 4.5 and 2.5 per 1,000 live births, respectively – and for blacks 7 and 4.²
- Hamilton County, a metropolitan region, was the region with the highest infant and postneonatal mortality rates in Tennessee in 1996. These rates were 12.6 and 5.2 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Shelby had the highest regional rate for neonatal mortality with 7.9 per 1,000 live births. It also had the second highest infant mortality rate with 12.3 per 1,000 live births. East Tennessee had the lowest rates of infant and neonatal mortality – 5.0 and 3.2, respectively. The Northeast Region, a nonmetropolitan region, had the lowest regional rate of postneonatal mortality, with 1.8 per 1,000 live births, closely followed by East Tennessee with 1.9.
- Comparison of infant mortality and postneonatal mortality rates for 1990-1992 and 1994-1996 reveal little or no change for the Tennessee population. The neonatal mortality rate for 1994-1996 was 5.3 per 1,000 live births, 13% lower than the 1990-1992 rate.

³No Year 2000 Objectives are given for whites on these measures by CDC.